

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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WAVERLY RECEIVES \$3 MILLION FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development office has awarded the Village of Waverly \$3,043,400 in grants and loans for improvements to its water system. The improvements are expected to eliminate health hazards, improve water distribution and storage capacity, and help attract new businesses to the village.

"These improvements are badly needed in Waverly and they would not be possible without assistance from the federal government," said Hinchey. "I am very pleased that the village is making good use of its partnership with USDA and that the money I placed in the Agriculture Appropriations bill is going to good use."

The project is endorsed by the Tioga County Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zone, which was created in 1999 through an agreement between Hinchey, the Secretary of Agriculture and local leaders. The funding announced today comes from a pool of money reserved for REAP Zones, of which there are only five in the country. As a member of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Hinchey secured this REAP Zone "set-aside" during the appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2002.

The funding includes a low-interest loan of \$2,143,500 and a grant of \$899,900. It will be used to construct a new water storage tank, to replace four-inch mains with eight-inch mains, and to install 18-inch diameter detention piping to meet New York State Department of Health standards.

"This is great news," said Mayor Terry Farish. "The Village of Waverly now has the chance to take full advantage of the REAP program. We'll now be able to move forward on a number of water projects that lacked funding. "